UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/514
21 October 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH/
FRENCH/RUSSIAN

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 77

# STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

## Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

| | | Page |
|---|---|---|
| I. | INTRODUCTION | 2 |
| II. | SUMMARY OF THE DEBATE ON THE QUESTION OF STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION DURING THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY | 2 |
| III. | REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS | 3 |
| | Algeria | 3 |
| | Cyprus | 4 |
| | Germany | 5 |
| | Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | 6 |
| | Morocco | 7 |
| | Ukraine | 9 |

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 47/58 of 9 December 1992, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", the General Assembly, inter alia, took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/47/524) and welcomed the efforts by the Mediterranean countries in the continuation of initiatives and negotiations as well as adoption of measures that would promote confidence- and security-building as well as disarmament in the Mediterranean region, and encouraged them to pursue those efforts further. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General, on 24 March 1993, addressed a note verbale to all States requesting their views and suggestions on the question of strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

3. As at 27 September 1993, six Governments had replied to the note verbale of the Secretary-General. Replies and notifications received subsequently will be published as addenda to this report.

## II. SUMMARY OF THE DEBATE ON THE QUESTION OF STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION DURING THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4. Delegations addressing the issue of strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region stressed the importance of Mediterranean security because of its close link to security in Europe, Africa and the Middle East and to international peace and security. They supported all efforts aimed at transforming the Mediterranean into a zone of peace, security and cooperation.

5. Some delegations stressed the need to free the Mediterranean of the continued presence of foreign military and naval forces that threatens peace and stability in the region. They also expressed concern over the economic and social disparities between the coastal countries, which contribute to the obstacle to the creation of a zone of peace and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

6. The delegations of the countries of the Arab Maghreb Union recalled the efforts being made by them and their European partners in the western basin of the Mediterranean and Malta, a grouping which is known as "Five plus Five", at laying the foundation for multifaceted cooperation and confidence-building in the region.

7. Some delegations called for the establishment of a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean among the States in an effort to promote and enhance security and cooperation in the region. One delegation expressed the hope that such a conference would help in the just and peaceful settlement of persistent problems in the region and in the safeguarding of the sovereignty,

independence and territorial integrity of all countries and peoples of the region.

## III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

### ALGERIA

[Original: French]

[30 July 1993]

1. Algeria fully supports the objectives and actions envisaged by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/58 of 9 December 1992 on the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

2. Algeria, which co-sponsored the above-mentioned resolution, considers that the qualitative changes which have taken place in international relations now provide it with new opportunities to redouble its efforts to think more deeply about this question and to establish the conditions which will lead to permanent strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean basin. The States of the region now have within their grasp the attainment of the aim of making the Mediterranean "a lake of peace and cooperation". Many Mediterranean countries, including Algeria, have worked for many years to achieve this aim and have linked it with the Helsinki process. The disappearance of East-West confrontation, the launching of the peace process in the Middle East, the foundation of the Arab Maghreb Union and the establishment of the "Five plus Five" framework of dialogue and cooperation constitute so many favourable factors, which must be transformed into a dynamic movement leading to convincing results in terms of peace, stability and security and in terms of economic and social development.

3. Not only must States achieve a just, lasting and global peace in the Middle East by bringing to an end the present negotiations and thereby liberating the eastern Mediterranean from the scourge of domination and occupation; States must also try harder to ensure that the bases for their security are solidly built on a political and economic partnership between the States on both sides of the Mediterranean. Such a partnership would be sustained by a joint strategic perception of the future configuration of the Mediterranean region in its political, economic, cultural, demographic and ecological expressions. Such a partnership, by remaining faithful to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, should be able to tackle the present and potential causes of tension, both military and non-military, and should be able to find solutions to the underlying problems and to harmonize initiatives. As an illustration of what they must do to uphold the indivisibility of security and stability in the Mediterranean basin, States on both sides must adopt a resolute attitude in the campaign against terrorism. They must coordinate their activities with a view to preventing and eliminating terrorist acts.

4. The Mediterranean countries are aware that it is useful and important for them to define the objectives of strengthened security and balanced and mutually advantageous cooperation.

5. Algeria welcomes the meetings that have taken place between the representatives of the different States, at different levels, with the aim of intensifying efforts to strengthen confidence and security, to favour disarmament and to promote balanced development in the whole region. In this context, Algeria will continue to work for the promotion of cooperative relations in the framework of the "Five plus Five", which it considers as an appropriate forum for fruitful exchanges with a view to increasing security in the Mediterranean.

6. Algeria encourages all initiatives designed to ensure the withdrawal of foreign forces, the respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the countries of the Mediterranean, and the right of peoples to self-determination. The achievement of these initiatives must be based on respect for the principles of non-interference, non-intervention, non-use of force or threat of force, and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force.

7. The implementation of these principles must necessarily be accompanied by similar efforts to be made in the economic and social fields so as to reduce and eliminate gradually the great disparities which exist between the countries of the Mediterranean.

8. Among the many forms of cooperation in the Mediterranean, those which appeal to balanced solidarity are of crucial importance in that they will make it possible to develop the existing possibilities of economic cooperation, to establish the necessary complementarities and to create links for an interdependence which will provide the basis for a lasting peace.

9. Algeria has paved the way for such a spirit of solidarity by the energetic and regular contributions it has made to the establishment of global security in Europe. The aim must be to promote, among the countries of the South Bank, the implementation of a systematic and gradual transition so that those countries can create the conditions for a market environment which will enable them to renew the bases for quality economic growth.

10. Because of this decisive role in the establishment of a Mediterranean group of the future, an innovative strategy for reducing the debt burden appears to be essential in achieving a state of security based on the stability and prosperity of the whole region.

## CYPRUS

[Original: English]

[20 September 1993]

1. The Republic of Cyprus attaches great importance to the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean and welcomes the adoption of General Assembly resolution 47/58.

2. The end of the cold war has raised legitimate hopes for real progress towards peace, prosperity and global security.

3. It is clear to all now that the security concerns of the Mediterranean countries are closely linked to those of Europe and inevitably to the rest of the world.

4. It is in this context that the Republic of Cyprus remains concerned by the persistence of conflicts affecting the Mediterranean region such as the Middle East problem, the question of Palestine, the situation in Lebanon and the continued military occupation of 37 per cent of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkish armed forces following the invasion in 1974.

5. The Republic of Cyprus, therefore, attaches particular importance to the promotion of peace and security in the region and wishes to reiterate its support to the declarations concerning the Mediterranean region, including the Helsinki Document 1992 adopted in July 1992 by the heads of State or Government of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, 1/ the conclusions of the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta in September 1992, 2/ and endorses the convening in the Mediterranean of a seminar of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

6. The Republic of Cyprus has steadfastly advocated that the Mediterranean region should be transformed into a zone of security, peace and cooperation free from conflict and confrontation on the basis of the principles of sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, non-intervention and non-interference, non-use of force or threat of use of force, the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

7. It is in this context that the Republic of Cyprus reaffirms its commitment to the complete demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus immediately after the Turkish occupying forces and settlers withdraw. It is evident that the demilitarization of Cyprus would contribute significantly to the enhancement of peace and security in the Mediterranean, in Europe and in the world.

8. The Republic of Cyprus believes, therefore, that if it is to have peace and stability in the Mediterranean, adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations must be mandatory.

## GERMANY

[Original: English]

[15 June 1993]

Germany attaches great importance to security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. Germany therefore welcomes any initiative suited to promote, through dialogue and cooperation, the stability of the Mediterranean region.

## LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

[Original: Arabic]

[17 May 1993]

1. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya accords extreme importance to the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region, because security in this region is linked to stability and also to international peace and security generally.

2. General Assembly resolution 47/58 emphasizes the various means of strengthening security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region and recognizes the major role of the countries of the region in the achievement of that end by intensification of the process of dialogue and consultation and the endeavour to eliminate the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security.

3. Resolution 47/58 and the other resolutions adopted on this matter make clear the importance that the United Nations accords to the consolidation of security and the achievement of stability in the Mediterranean region, just like other organizations such as the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which has assiduously reiterated its position on security and cooperation in this region. That was confirmed in the final document of the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 1 to 6 September 1992, 2/ inasmuch as that Summit renewed its support for the efforts made to transform the Mediterranean region into a region of peace, security and cooperation on the basis of the principles of sovereignty, independence, regional peace, non-intervention in any form, non-use of force or threat of force and non-violation of international boundaries.

4. The Conference of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries called for non-escalation of problems in the region and urged efforts to find a peaceful and just settlement for them that would guarantee the interests and rights of all parties, in accordance with the norms of international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations that govern relations among independent States.

5. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya affirms its support for these positions and states that it would welcome any initiative that seeks to eliminate tension from the area and expand the scope of cooperation there on the basis of the principle of sovereignty and mutual respect. At the same time, the Jamahiriya wishes to stress that the practical implementation of what is called for by the resolutions of the United Nations and other organizations with regard to security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region would truly ensure the transformation of this region into a region of genuine peace and security. Within this context, the Jamahiriya wishes to recall that one of the things called for by international resolutions is the necessity of the withdrawal of foreign fleets and bases from the region. It considers the implementation of this requirement to be fundamental, because it would strengthen confidence-building and direct the potentials of the region towards the promotion of economic and social development.

6. In addition, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya believes that resort to dialogue and mutual understanding with a view to finding a solution to differences, on the basis of sovereignty and mutual respect in accordance with international customs and covenants, would be fundamental in achieving security and stability in the Mediterranean. It believes also that the initiatives that have been taken and the efforts that have been made within the groupings of the region, such as the Arab Maghreb Union, represent an important starting point for coordination of joint efforts for the realization of the aspirations of the region to peace, security and cooperation that will benefit all.

7. Accordingly, in keeping with its positive position on the question of the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya participated actively in the "Five plus Five" western Mediterranean meeting, with the aim of creating a serious dialogue and a fruitful model of cooperation between the northern and southern parts of the Mediterranean region. Within this framework, it should be pointed out also that the Meeting held in Rome on 10 October 1990 between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two above-mentioned groups, formulated some important principles on the path towards the strengthening of cooperation in the region. These principles are as follows:

(a) A desire to set up a model for relations in the Mediterranean region that would lead to stability, prosperity and promote development and democracy;

(b) Reference to initiatives emanating from a number of sources and relating to the settlement of disputes and to peace and development in the region;

(c) Endorsement of the project for security and cooperation in the Mediterranean.

## MOROCCO

[Original: French]

[30 July 1993]

1. The Mediterranean has always been a melting pot of rich and varied civilizations and cultures and a particularly important geo-strategic region.

2. While the end of the cold war may have removed the danger of a widespread conflict threatening the Mediterranean region as a whole, the persistence of the Middle East conflict and the war being waged in Serbia against the physical and territorial integrity of the Bosnian people represent a major obstacle to the establishment of a climate of peace and cooperation in the eastern part of the Mediterranean and continue to threaten international peace and security.

3. In addition, the growing socio-economic disparities between the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean continue to be a source of instability and suffering for the peoples of the region.

4. General Assembly resolution 47/58 was right to recognize not only the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean, but also, and above all, the close cause-and-effect relationship between security and cooperation.

5. On the basis of this consideration, the Kingdom of Morocco, together with its Maghreb and European partners, has made regional cooperation a central strand of its foreign policy. The development of this dialogue and cooperation is timely and fruitful from several points of view, since it is able to meet immediate needs, forestall potential crises and adapt itself to the characteristics and affinities of countries that are in close contact. It also helps to mitigate the consequences of the increasingly marked globalization of the economy.

6. Through the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union on 2 February 1989, the Kingdom of Morocco sought to strengthen its relations of good-neighbourliness with the four other member States and to lay the foundations for multi-faceted cooperation in all areas.

7. With the countries of Europe, particularly those in the Mediterranean region, Morocco favours a forward-looking policy of partnership based increasingly on mutually beneficial relations. It hopes to conclude an agreement with the European Community that contains balanced provisions (free-trade area), extends to other sectors such as political and cultural dialogue, and is innovative in its methods and goals (fewer unilateral measures and more shared responsibility).

8. Morocco remains convinced that strengthening security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region can make a decisive contribution to the establishment of an international order that respects the fundamental rights of States as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations.

9. With that in view, it considers it necessary to extend participation in existing security and cooperation mechanisms, such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, to the countries of the southern Mediterranean, so as to enable them to express their views and make an active contribution to the goals pursued.

10. In addition, it is more important than ever to establish a collective framework for handling the concerns and aspirations of the Mediterranean countries and to give fresh and bold impetus to their political, economic and cultural relations.

11. It is only through open and continuous dialogue and solidarity in the face of all trials that the countries of the Mediterranean will be able to restore its vocation as a "lake of peace".

## UKRAINE

[Original: Russian]

[Undated]

1. Ukraine considers that the problem of strengthening security in the Mediterranean region should be tackled on a broad front, from the standpoint of the indivisible character of security in the entire Euro-Atlantic region.

2. Against the background of positive developments taking place in Europe, the situation in the Mediterranean region is not being stabilized; indeed, it is becoming increasingly complex. This is due to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, the intractability of the Middle East problem, the disparities in economic development in the countries of the region and certain other problems.

3. The complex web of contradictions existing between the countries of the Mediterranean region may be resolved at the global, regional and local levels. At the global level, the conflicts may be settled only by political means with the use of the broad capabilities of the United Nations.

4. Ukraine considers that, in order to improve the situation in the Mediterranean region, serious measures are also called for at the regional level. The solution of the problems of the region must not be considered in isolation from the lengthy negotiations on questions of security and cooperation in Europe; it must form an integral part of that process.

5. Ukraine supports the initiatives for transforming the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and cooperation. In addition, it supports the proposals designed to strengthen security and promote cooperation formulated at the Meeting on the Mediterranean of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, held at Palma de Mallorca in October 1990. In general, Ukraine supports the proposal put forward at that Conference concerning the principle of convening a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, which, based on the universal concept of Mediterranean cooperation, would establish machinery for finding collective solutions to the problems of the Mediterranean region.

6. The participation of Ukrainian military personnel in the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia represents a concrete contribution by Ukraine to the strengthening of security in that region.

7. The strengthening of security in the Mediterranean would open up further opportunities for cooperation among the countries of the region. A major role in the development of such cooperation should be played by such international organizations as the United Nations Environment Programme the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Ukraine is ready to cooperate in implementing many of the joint projects being carried on by those organizations.

8. The transformation of the Mediterranean region into a zone of peace, security and cooperation would help to consolidate peace and security in Europe and the entire world.

## Notes

1/ A/47/361-S/24370, annex.

2/ A/47/675-S/24816, annex.

---